# BEFORE THE STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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|             |           | ·                                       | Accusation  | 7 19 411 10 11     |

Benjamin N. Loveridge 28341 Carriage Hill Drive Highland, CA 92346

Field Representative's License No. FR 44660, Branch 3

Respondent.

Case No. 2015-23

# **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Structural Pest Control Board, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

| The Decision shall become effective on |         |     |      | November | 26, | 2015 | <br> |  |
|--|---------|-----|------|----------|-----|------|------|--|
| IT IS SO ODDEDED                       | October | 27. | 2015 | 5        |     |      |      |  |

FOR THE STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

| 1        | KAMALA D. HARRIS   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2        | Attorney General of California ARMANDO ZAMBRANO  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3        | Supervising Deputy Attorney General WILLIAM D. GARDNER   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4        | Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 244817   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5        | 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702<br>Los Angeles, CA 90013<br>Telephone: (213) 897-2114  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6        | Facsimile: (213) 897-2114  Facsimile: (213) 897-2804  Attorneys for Complainant  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7        | •  | OF THE                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 .      | BEFORE THE STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9        | STATE OF CALIFORNIA  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10       | In the Matter of the Accusation Against:   | Case No. 2015-23                             |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11       | Benjamin N. Loveridge  | STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12       | 28341 Carriage Hill Drive<br>Highland, CA 92346  | DISCIPLINARY ORDER                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13       | Field Representative License No. FR 44660,   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14       | Branch 3   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16<br>17 | Respondent   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19       | IT IS HERERY STIPLIL ATED AND ACC  | REED by and between the parties to the above |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20       | IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-<br>entitled proceedings that the following matters are true: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21       | PARTIES  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22       | 1. Susan Saylor ("Complainant") is the Registrar/Executive Officer of the Structural   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23       | Pest Control Board. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24       | this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by William D.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 25       | Gardner, Deputy Attorney General.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 26       | 2. Respondent Benjamin N. Loveridge is representing himself in this proceeding and has   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 27       | chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 28       | ///  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          |  | 1  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. On or about August 13, 2009, the Board issued Field Representative License Number FR 44660 in Branch 3 (termite) to Benjamin N. Loveridge ("Respondent"). Respondent's field representative license will expire on June 30, 2018, unless renewed.

# JURISDICTION

- 3. Accusation No. 2015-23 was filed before the Structural Pest Control Board ("Board"), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on February 4, 2015. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 4. A copy of Accusation No. 2015-23 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

# ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2015-23. Respondent has also carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

#### **CULPABILITY**

8. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2015-23, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Field Representative License.

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- 9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.
- 10. Respondent agrees that his Field Representative License is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

#### CONTINGENCY

- Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Structural Pest Control Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

# DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Field Representative License No. FR 44660 issued to Respondent Benjamin N. Loveridge (Respondent) is suspended. However, the suspension is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

- 1. Suspension. Respondent's Field Representative License No. FR 44660 shall be suspended for a period of five (5) days. However, the suspension is hereby stayed, and Respondent's license shall remain in active without a period of suspension.
- 2. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all Federal, State and Local laws along with all laws and rules relating to the practice of structural pest control.
- 3. Quarterly Reports. Respondent shall file quarterly reports with the Board during the period of probation.
- 4. **Tolling of Probation.** Should Respondent leave California to reside outside this state, Respondent must notify the Board in writing of the dates of departure and return. Periods of residency or practice outside the state shall not apply to reduction of the probationary period.
- 5. **Notice to Employers.** Respondent shall notify all present and prospective employers of the decision in Case No. 2015-23 and the terms, conditions and restriction imposed on Respondent by said decision.

Within 30 days of the effective date of this decision, and within 15 days of Respondent undertaking new employment, Respondent shall cause his/her employer to report to the Board in writing acknowledging the employer has read the decision in Case No. 2015-23.

6. **Notice to Employees.** Respondent shall, upon or before the effective date of this decision, post or circulate a notice to all employees involved in structural pest control operations which accurately recite the terms and conditions of probation. Respondent shall be responsible for said notice being immediately available to said employees. "Employees" as used in this

provision includes all full-time, part-time, temporary and relief employees and independent contractors employed or hired at any time during probation.

- 7. Completion of Probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license/certificate will be fully restored.
- 8. Violation of Probation. Should Respondent violate probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order which was stayed. If a petition to revoke probation is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- 9. Continuing Education Courses. Within six (6) months of the effective date of the Decision and Order, Respondent shall successfully complete sixteen (16) hours of approved continuing education coursework to include eight (8) hours related to rules and regulations, four (4) hours related to technical Branch 3, two (2) hours related to Integrated Pest Management and two (2) hours of general study. Said coursework shall be in addition to any continuing education hours required for renewal of his license.

### **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Field Representative License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Structural Pest Control Board.

DATED: 7 16 15

BENJAMIN N. LOVERIDGE Respondent

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# The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully 7-14-2015 LA2014512826 51830757 2.doc

# **ENDORSEMENT**

submitted for consideration by the Structural Pest Control Board.

Respectfully submitted,

KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California ARMANDO ZAMBRANO Supervising Deputy Attorney General

WILLIAM D. GARDNER Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant